GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2728
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
e-Waste
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of e-waste recyclers/dismantlers in the country is inadequate and a Parliamentary Standing Committee has also made observations in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of authorised e-waste recyclers/dismantlers and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government is taking steps to increase the coverage of Extended Producer"s Responsibility under the e-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011;
(d) if so, the details thereof including amendment to the rules to incorporate internationally recognised best practices; and
(e) whether the Government has any plan to extract gold from e-Waste and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests in its report No. 266 on E-Waste and E-Radiation submitted to Rajya Sabha during July 2015 had observed that the number of 126 E-waste recyclers/ dismantlers is abysmally inadequate to treat the quantum of nearly 8 lakh tons of e-waste generated in the country. It stated that there is an immediate need to increase the number of dismantlers/ recyclers/ collection centres specially in states generating large quantum of e-waste and the gap between the e-waste generated and the capacity to deal with it should be bridged at the earliest possible.

(b) The number of registered dismantlers/recyclers in the country has increased to 148 from 126 since the time the Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting held on 20th November 2015. These 148 registered dismantlers/recyclers in 12 States have registered e-waste dismantling and recycling capacity of 4,55,059 TA (Four lakhs fifty five thousand and fifty nine tons per annum). However, the ongoing review of the issue also highlighted that large amount of e-waste recycling is in informal sector and the quantity of e-waste processed by the registered dismantlers and recycler is only 1,21,381 TA in the year 2013-2014 against their capacity of 4,55,059 TA, thus indicating unutilized existing capacity for recycling.

(c) &(d) To ensure better implementation of management of electronic waste, Ministry has published draft e-Waste Management Rules, 2015. The provisions of this Draft Rule include expanding producers' responsibility, setting up of Producers' Responsibility Organizations, and e-waste Exchange, assigning specific responsibility to bulk consumers of electronic products for safe disposal, providing for economic incentives for collection of electronic waste, and other measures to include dedicated responsibility of electronic and electrical product manufacturers for collection and channelizing of electronic waste.

(e) Most of the authorized recyclers in the country don't have environmentally sound facility for extraction of precious metals form printed circuit board (PCB) which ultimately either get exported to developed country to recover the precious metal or channelized to informal sector which extract the precious metals using primitive methods. Accordingly, the issue is to be handled by strengthening of regulatory safeguards and formulation of regional development plan for resource recovery. As far as regional development plan for resource recovery is concerned, Ministry is coordinating with Department of Electronic and Information Technology on the issue which has already undertaken initiatives such as R&D programme with respect to recycling technology for extraction of precious metals, plastics and glass; up-scaling developed technologies; demonstrations through pilot plants; commercialization of technology transfer etc.

*****